

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would first like to recognize Congressman ROONEY from Florida for bringing this resolution to the floor. It is a very timely resolution and one that, while we recognize the importance of our military families all the time, we certainly want to have the opportunity to make it official, so to speak, for this Congress, this House of Representatives, to join in that recognition. So I thank Representative ROONEY for his efforts.

I also want to commend and thank President Obama for declaring November to be National Military Family Month as we support this resolution that will join in the goals and ideals that are set forth in this proclamation.

Madam Speaker, we know that our military families are dedicated but also face great challenges and difficulties. As our troops have faced repeated deployments and have gone back into the field more often than perhaps we would wish as they serve our country as we need for them to do, so much of the burden of this service falls back to the military family.

But the military families have responded in incredible ways. They unite around each other. They support each other. They help their single-parent families. They come together in a way not only to support themselves but to also support their family members that are deployed. It is not a surprise that this happens, because they are an extension of these men and women that serve our Nation so heroically.

So with this resolution, H. Res. 861, we simply want to recognize once again the work, the dedication, the sacrifice in how our military families come together and acknowledge this in a positive way from the U.S. House of Representatives.

I reserve my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. ROONEY. Thank you, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KISSELL, for managing this bill and for Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for supporting the National Military Family Month resolution.

This resolution is about supporting our military families. We rightly give due credit time and time again in this Chamber to our service men and women who wear the uniform, especially now in a time of war. But this bill goes a step further in recognizing the spouses and the parents and the children of those men and women who serve our country.

As a former Army captain married to another Army captain, my wife and I met so many families at just two of our duty stations at Fort Hood, Texas, and

West Point, New York. The people that we came to know in the military were truly the best people we've ever met. The sacrifice of seeing a loved one off to war and waiting the days and months for their return, sending letters, waiting in the middle of the night for a phone call or an email just to hear that they're okay; the sacrifice of moving time and time again and town to town and duty station to duty station when other families set down roots much earlier; and, finally, the sacrifice of a mom and dad seeing their child putting on a uniform for the first time and marching at graduation and the pride that they feel, and sometimes even the sorrow of receiving a flag that draped their child's casket, this resolution honors them, moms and dads, the spouses, the children.

I urge Members to support this, and thank you for yielding, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KISSELL, and for supporting this bill.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I once again thank Representative ROONEY for bringing this resolution to the floor. And all of the ideals that he expressed, I thank him so much for.

I've had the opportunity to speak with many of our soldiers; and to a person, they tell me that if they just know their families are being taken care of, what a relief that is for them to concentrate on the duty that we're asking for them to perform in wherever the mission might be.

So once again, I ask for support for the resolution for a National Military Family Month, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 861, which recognizes the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month. And I want to commend Representative TOM ROONEY of Florida for sponsoring this legislation.

Twenty years ago, the week of Thanksgiving was deemed Military Family Week as part of the Great American Family Project. And in 1996, with the support of the Armed Services YMCA, Military Family Week was expanded into Military Family Month. And Military Family Month seeks to recognize the sacrifices of our military families and the things they do for our Nation each and every day.

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As we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving during the month of November, it is important that we celebrate the critical role of the military family.

During a time of extended conflict, it is imperative not only that we stop and take time to acknowledge the dedications and sacrifices made by our military families every day, but also that we pause to recognize the strength, commitment, and courage of the military spouse and children of our men and women serving today.

Whether deployed overseas or training at home, the families of our servicemen and -women are the foundation of our military and proudly represent a keystone in a strong national defense. Even though this resolution commemorates 1 month of recognition for our military families, I believe our military families should be praised every day for their selfless service to America. I urge Members to vote in favor of this resolution and American military families.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleague from Virginia in recognizing that the service and dedication of our military families is not just a 1 month deal; it is something that occurs every day, and we should recognize that every day. I ask my colleagues to support the resolution, H. Res. 861.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 861, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month.

The families of those who serve our country on the front lines deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to faraway lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. The support given to our service men and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

The men and women of the United States armed services rely on the support and encouragement of their families as they strive to protect the liberties and freedoms we enjoy every day at home. From the service organizations that provide holiday gifts to the letter that a parent or sibling writes to a loved one deployed or stationed abroad, the love and support of our military families is paramount. The sacrifices performed by these families should never be forgotten or diminished because they represent the very foundation of the American spirit.

Let us also make certain that we remember those individuals who are in harm's way today in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice—we are forever grateful for your heroic acts and for your service to our nation.

The brave men, women, and families who have and continue to sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. These individuals represent our nation's finest qualities, and they must be treated with the utmost respect and honor. Recognizing the month of November as National Military Family Month is just one small token of our appreciation for the families and their sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters who labor steadfastly for the United States and its undying values of freedom and liberty for all. It is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces and their families.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the burden which military families bear, and honoring the importance of the sacrifices they